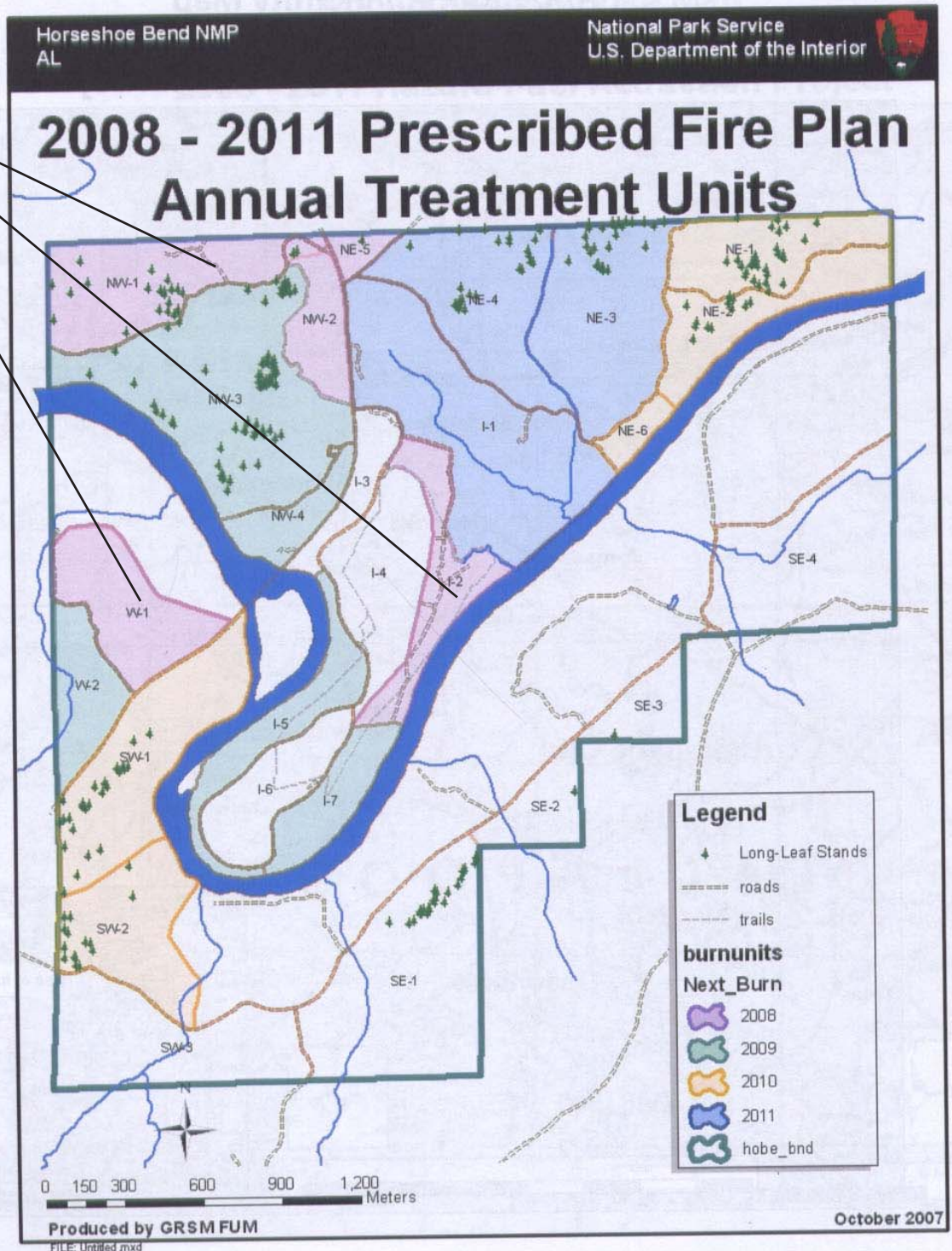




2008 Proposed Burn Units

Three Proposed Burn Units for 2008 are in Purple

A: MAPS



Acreage and Resources

Horseshoe Bend National Military Park consists of 2040 acres including approximately 500 acres of historic battlefield, 3 miles of river (Tallapoosa River), and the remainder forested primarily with second growth mix stand of vegetation typical to the southern Piedmont region. Other critical resources include:

- Thirteen documented archaeological sites and at least two Creek Indian village sites dating from the 18th century or earlier
- 354 known animal species
- 901 known plant species
- 20 structures
- 4 historic features on the List of Classified Structures
- 10 miles of paved roads and 12 miles of unpaved roads
- 3 miles of maintained trails
- 38,222 catalogued museum objects, primarily stored at the Southeast Archaeological Center in Tallahassee, Florida

Visitation

Other than the 1.0 million travelers on Highway 49 each year, visitation to use resources provided by the NPS at Horseshoe Bend National Military Park are:

- Approximately 70,000 users of the three mile Tour Road, Nature Trail, and general park grounds
- 15,000 users of a boat ramp providing access to the Tallapoosa River
- 25,000 users of the park Visitor Center
- 26,000 attendees at park programs, both onsite and offsite, including two major special events each year

This is a 7% increase in park visitation over the past decade

Budget and Staffing

The anticipated budget for fiscal year 2008 is \$785,000. This is a 17% increase in budget over the past five years. (2003 budget was \$669,000). These budget increases were primarily annual Congressional increases to all parks to cover cost of living adjustments and increases.

Park staffing is currently 10 permanent, full time employees. In years when a permanent position is vacant, the park uses the dollars to hire temporary employees to insure visitor and employee safety while providing for consistent resource protection. The park has received an increase in staffing of only two permanent full time positions in the last 15 years.

To supplement the minimal park staff, each year a crew of two to three Youth Conservation Corps employees are recruited from local high schools using special project funding provided by the NPS YCC funds. Additionally, over 3000 hours of volunteer time is logged by the park's volunteer Horseshoe Bend Militia, a group of gentlemen trained in black powder weapons safety who wear period uniforms and present military demonstrations to the public on a regular basis. These 3000 hours translate to \$53,000 savings to the park in salaries (at FY07 volunteer hourly value of \$17.50 per hour). The park receives only \$1000 each year from the NPS Volunteer Program to support volunteers. Additional volunteer activities are planned but difficult to develop due to lack of funding and staffing to adequately train volunteers and supervise the program.

Key Management Issues

- 2014 marks the Bicentennial of the Battle of Horseshoe Bend. This conflict is a part of the larger War of 1812 history. Unfortunately, the Bicentennial of the War of 1812 and its associated events has not found a champion politically or regionally. The park lacks funding to mark this key anniversary in any way out of the ordinary.

- The park's 50th Anniversary as a unit of the NPS is marked in 2009. The park has requested funding through the Challenge Cost Share Program to partner with Auburn University to host a two day seminar that will bring international historians together for a series of lectures and a field trip to the park, as well as a publication of the proceedings. Funding has not been approved yet.

- The Centennial of the National Park Service occurs in 2016. The park has ideas for Centennial projects but lacks a fund raising partner such as a Friends group to raise dollars to be matched by Congress as a part of the Centennial Initiative. The park's proposed Centennial projects include:

- Development of a small outdoor amphitheater for presentations such as Creek dancing and military weaponry demonstrations during special events and as an outdoor classroom for field trips

- Addition of a 100 seat theater to the existing Visitor Center as the park has outgrown its tiny multi-purpose room (formerly office space) that seats only 20 people

- Improvement of the park's main picnic area to include restrooms, shelter improvements, and possible addition of small camping area for Scouts or similar special groups working on projects

- Increased recreational use of the park is managed as it occurs because the park lacks any overarching planning documents to provide long term direction, such as a General Management Plan